

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are canceled without prejudice, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 12 are amended and Claim 13 is added by the present amendment without adding new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 12 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c); Claims 3-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 3-5, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,416, herein "Hilton") in view of Pelanek (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,075); Claims 2 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilton, Pelanek, and Stockham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,267, herein "Stockham"); and Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilton in view of Pelanek and Schwalb et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0065684 A1, herein "Schwalb").

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicant's representative on April 14, 2004. During the interview differences between the claims and the applied art were discussed. Further, claim amendments clarifying the claims over the applied art were discussed. The present response sets forth the discussed claim amendments. The Examiner indicated he would further review the amended claims in view of a filed response. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Regarding the objection to Claim 12 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), Claim 5 on which Claim 12 depends has been amended to not be in multiple dependent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, independent Claim 3 has been amended to recite “speeds” instead of “a single speed,” and Claims 4, 8, 9, and 10 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilton in view of Pelanek. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite features of dependent Claim 2, and therefore, Claim 2 has been canceled. Independent Claim 3 has been amended to recite features of dependent Claims 4 and 8, and therefore, Claims 4 and 8 have been canceled. In addition, Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled and independent Claim 3 has been amended to further recite that at least two series of tomographic images include a first series obtained using a contrast medium and a second series obtained without a contrast medium for a same portion of a body and the first and second series are obtained during a same diagnostic time, as disclosed in the specification at page 10, lines 1-16.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 1 is directed to a display device for tomographic image that includes a display portion, a storage mechanism, a display-speed setting mechanism, and a controller. The display-speed setting mechanism is a mechanical slide-bar variable adjuster positioned in a separate case from a case including the controller.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 4 shows the slide-bar variable adjuster 31 positioned in a separate case from the case including the controller.

Turning to the applied art, the outstanding Office Action recognizes (see the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4) that Hilton does not “explicitly” disclose a particular input peripheral for a display-speed setting mechanism.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Pelanek for teaching a controller 83 that has a speed knob control 236 as shown in Figure 4. However, as discussed during the interview, Pelanek does not teach or suggest a mechanical slide-bar variable adjuster positioned in a separate case from a case including the controller, as required in amended independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Hilton and Pelanek.

Amended independent Claim 3 is directed to a display device for tomographic image that has a display portion, a storage mechanism, a display-speed setting mechanism, a controller, and a synchronization command sending mechanism. The display device displays at least two series of tomographic images, a first series obtained using a contrast medium and a second series obtained without the contrast medium for a same portion of a body, and the first and second series are obtained during a same diagnostic time.

Neither Hilton nor Pelanek teaches or suggests the features of Claim 3. In rejecting the features of dependent Claim 8 (now incorporated in Claim 3), the outstanding Office Action relies on Schwalb for teaching comparing images from *a current* procedure to specific images from *a prior* procedure.¹ However, as discussed during the interview, Schwalb does not teach or suggest a first series of tomographic images obtained *with a contrast medium* and a second series obtained *without the contrast medium* for a same portion of a body during *a same diagnostic time*.

Thus, the combination of Hilton, Pelanek, and Schwalb does not teach or suggest the features of amended independent Claim 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 3 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the combination of Hilton, Pelanek, and Schwalb.

¹ Outstanding Office Action, page 6, lines 15-19.

Claims 2 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilton in view of Pelanek and Stockham. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Stockham for teaching a slider mode in an environment of cine sequences displayed for tomographic images. However, as shown in Figure 6 in Stockham, an image container 86 has a horizontal bar at a top of the container which is used to start, stop, or control a speed of the cine sequence by using a “variable slider vertical scroll bar 170.”² However, as discussed during the interview, Stockham discloses that the variable slider vertical scroll bar 170 is a software feature of the container 86 and not a mechanical slide-bar variable adjuster as requested in independent Claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Hilton, Pelanek, and Stockham does not teach or suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 3 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the combination of Hilton, Pelanek, and Stockham.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hilton in view of Pelanek and Schwalb. That rejection is respectfully traversed because Claim 8 has been canceled.

New Claim 13 has been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicant submits that the new claim is supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new independent Claim 13 includes features of independent Claim 3 and further recites that a synchronization command sending mechanism matches display speeds for at least two series of tomographic images “when a number of images in each of the at least two series is different,” as disclosed in the specification, at page 11, first paragraph. Because

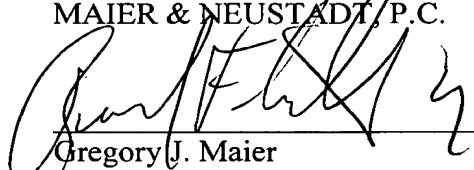
² Stockham at column 7, line 60 to column 8, line 10.

none of the applied art teaches or suggests that feature, it is respectfully submitted that new Claim 13 is also allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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